

and learns that, at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the gunboat was abreast of the mole, columns of black smoke were seen on the horizon east by north from her bridge. The ships were about thirteen miles distant and their hulls could not be fairly made out, but all appearances indicated that the vessels were of great tonnage. The fleet seemed to be making northward with all speed past the eastern end of Cuba, and while the officers of the gunboat were observing the vessels, they were gradually lost to view behind the protruding outlet of Cape May. It is hardly to be doubted that the ships sighted were American war vessels.

WAS THIS THE CAUSE?

Dispatch From Port au Prince Says Three Spanish Ships Tried to Sneak Out.

NEW YORK, May 31.—A copyrighted special from Port au Prince to the Evening World, says:

"A report was current at Mole St. Nicholas that three of Cervantes' fleet tried to steal out of Santiago and were pursued. They only escaped destruction by regaining their port."

LONDON, June 1.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Kingston, dated Tuesday, says:

"A large American squadron supposed to be Rear Admiral Sampson's was seen today off Port Antonio on the north coast of Jamaica, twenty-five miles northwest of Morant point, on the eastern extremity of the island, steaming westward."

NOT FIT FOR A FIGHT.

Americans Who Saw Cervantes' Fleet at Cienfuegos Say It Was in Bad Condition.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—William H. Davis, Carl Davis and Clive Davis, three young men of the city, have just returned home after a year's visit to Venezuela and brought interesting information concerning Cervantes' fleet. They landed at New York Saturday from the Dutch mail steamer, Fris Frederik Hendrik. On the way from South America they saw the Spanish fleet at Cienfuegos May 14, the same day the Cape Verde fleet arrived at the Dutch port. The young men were in close proximity to the Spanish fleet for nearly thirty-six hours, and during that time they had a constant watch on every move of the Spaniards. The fleet, they say, was short of coal and provisions, while the bottom of each ship was foul with sea growth. Admiral Cervantes' squadron was in no fighting trim.

On board the Dutch steamer with the young Washingtonians was Captain D. S. Osborn, of Brooklyn, and they confirm entirely his story of the poor condition of the Spanish fleet, concerning which they made it their business to gather information.

LONDON'S VIEW OF IT.

Bombardment May Have Been to Cover Laying Mines off Cuba.

LONDON, June 1.—The news of the fighting at Santiago de Cuba has revived the dwindling interest in the war. It is suggested that the Americans may be bombarding the forts in order to cover the laying of mines or the sinking of hulks to block the channel.

Credence is given the report that Admiral Cervera tried to run the blockade before the arrival of General Schley's expedition. It is not believed that Commodore Schley would venture in before Cervera's fleet at Manila.

Everything, so far as the war is concerned, is now held to depend on Admiral Cervera's movements, and unless, as is unlikely, he is able to display masterly skill, it is evident that the bold strategy of the Spaniards will only result in the destruction of their fleet in detail.

A second reserve squadron could not be prepared for months, as the vessels referred to mentioned by the Madrid press are all in a backward state at Ferrol, Cadiz and Cartagena, except the Numancia, the Victoria and the Doña Maria de Molina, which could be ready in a few weeks.

PAYING ARMIES OF INVASION.

Soldiers to Receive One Month's Pay in Advance—Fiscal Agents at Manila.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—General Stanton, of the army, has directed that \$1,000,000 be placed to the credit of the representative of his office at San Francisco to pay the officers and men who are to go to Manila, one month's wages in advance. This action is taken because the authority conferred in a recent act of congress. It has been decided by the war department officials that the term "operations against the enemy," begins when the soldiers actually start from their embarkation points for the places to which they are to go. The question arose in connection with the law which permitted officers of lower rank than captains to receive pay in advance when they are assigned temporarily to command a higher rank in the operations against the enemy.

Paymaster General Stanton authorizes a special edition of the report, regarding the acquisition of the Philippines, to be sent to the Philippines.

The report that this was contemplated probably arose from the fact that such a

suggestion has been made to the war department. The paymaster general asserts there is no desire on the part of the government to pay its soldiers in depreciated coin but that it will be transacted in gold and silver of the United States.

Belgian Bros. of London, have been designated as the fiscal agents of the United States government at Manila and the operations against the enemy. The operations against the enemy are the operations against the enemy.

The paymaster's department issued orders to-day to pay the soldiers designated for Cuba and Porto Rico one month's salary in advance. This will be paid to them as they go on the transports.

SPAIN WEARY OF THE WAR.

It Is Believed She Would Now Accept the Mediation of the Powers.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

MADRID, May 31.—Rumors float point to point that the Spaniards are weary of the war. Senor Sagasta's allusions yesterday to an honorable peace have been taken as implying Spain's willingness to accept the mediation of the great powers. Senor Romero y Robledo promptly snapped out: "People in a state of war do not talk of peace, honorable or otherwise, unless they are bent that way. Seeking peace means carrying on a halfhearted war."

Senor Sagasta's very blunt refusal to take on his shoulders responsibility for the political course of the cabinet, confining his connection therewith to the administration functions of his portfolio—public works—points in the same direction.

London's correspondent of the Associated Press had a conversation with a distinguished member of the Silveira party, who very candidly admitted that it would be a good thing for Spain if she were free of Cuba.

"Cuba," he said, "has always been a drag on Spanish resources. We get nothing, as a nation, from it, but it has, on the contrary, drained us of our best blood and money. True, in the old evil days, individuals made fortunes out there, but rapidly, greed, had government and cruelty have brought nothing but shame on the mother country. It will, therefore, be good for Spain when the last Spanish flag is hoisted on the island. The war will thus be a good thing for Spain if she were free of Cuba."

There is little doubt as to Senor Silveira being one of the most enlightened and capable Spaniards in public life to-day. In addition to his great ability, he is believed to be thoroughly honest, and to be supported by men who are all anxious to purify the home administration from the blot which the war has cast upon it.

Should this forecast come true, a bright future may still be in store for the peninsula. A policy which puts an end to an insupportable war, restores the shattered commerce, while restoring her shattered finances, may make her an acceptable ally to the United States.

from Santiago province, where the Spaniards are entirely on the defensive, and sent to the western part of the island. The Spanish cruiser Jorge Juan and the gunboat Ligera are in the harbor of Nipe, near Banes.

Tomás Collazo, Juan Miguel Portuondo and Captain SCardenas left Banes in a small boat recently for Nassau, bearing dispatches from General Garcia to the United States authorities.

CORRESPONDENTS IN PRISON.

Three Are Now at Cabañas Fortress, Two Under Suspicion of Being Spies.

HAVANA, May 31.—London Times, who is imprisoned in Cabañas fortress, says he intended to land at Havana some time ago, when he came on board the American vessel which brought the first propositions for an exchange of prisoners. Subsequently, in company with Mr. Brock, a German merchant, he tried to land at Havana on board the German ship Polaris. Disappointed in this effort he says he finally bought a boat and was towed by an American dispatch boat to a point about eight miles off the Cuban coast, when he was lowered and started for shore.

Owing to the strong surf, his small boat was upset, but he managed to right her, eventually succeeded in reaching shore, after twenty-eight hours. The American guards captured him near Jaruco, Havana province. He will probably soon be set at liberty, and is being treated with great consideration.

On May 28 (Saturday) two persons landed at Matanzas, who gave the names of Philip Robinson and H. J. Whigham, claiming to be Englishmen. According to their statement, they left Key West on board a British yacht, the name of which they did not disclose, in search of Cardenas on Wednesday, May 25.

They were observed by American warships and fired at, but without result. On the 28th of May, in the morning, they approached the shore, but the American warship was in sight; a small boat was lowered and in it they effected a landing at Dubroc, near Matanzas harbor. They carried four British flags and one white flag which they were taken to the shore. About midnight on Saturday they were arrested at the Louvre hotel and taken to San Severino castle, where they will be put on trial, as it is believed they are American spies.

On Sunday the supposed spies were brought here to Cabañas fortress.

Robinson and Whigham are United States newspaper correspondents.

HAVANA'S CHIEF DECORATED.

Rewarded for His Humanitarian Services Rendered to the Crew of the Maine.

HAVANA, May 31.—(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.) Governor General Blanco has published an edict announcing the award of the Cross of the Civil and Royal Order of Beneficence to Chief of Police Paglieri for his humanitarian services rendered to the crew of the U. S. S. Maine, on the night of the explosion in Havana harbor.

A Spanish schooner with a cargo of provisions has arrived at Nevitas from Barcelona.

La Lucha publishes a picture of Fort McPherson and an interview which has been had by its reporter with Colonel De Corujo and Surgeon Garcia Julian, who were recently given up by the American warships in the exchange of prisoners.

They expressed themselves as very grateful for the attentions of the officers in whose charge they were and also for the kindness of the American people with whom they were being detained. They complain that the American government treated them as criminals and not as army officers, as is done in other countries with prisoners of war.

Colonel De Corujo says: "We were placed in a cage utterly unworthy of our military rank."

SIMPSON BOUND TO FIGHT.

Will Tender His Services in the Navy Since Leedy Turned Him Down on Land.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—(Special.) Jerry Simpson has been a hard man to find in these troublous times. He has been doing his best to get his hands on a ship, but the navy has turned him down. He has now decided to tender his services in the navy.

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AS TO ANNEXATION

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Has Accomplished His Purpose in Calling Attention to the Necessity for Action—Is Hawaiian Annexation a Military Necessity?

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Senator Lodge did not press the subject of his speech after the public was excluded, but other senators declared themselves in favor of prompt action. The senatorial majority, however, was not pronounced in this direction. Senator Morgan expressed the opinion that, under the circumstances, the annexation of the Hawaiian islands was as much a war measure as any step that could possibly be taken, and he thought congress had remained in session long enough to pass all war measures.

He paid his respects to those who preferred adjournment to remaining here attending to the country's business. A large number of the speech makers stopped in the senate chamber to wait for the senatorial majority, who had antagonized the theory that the islands were in any way essential to our success in the conflict with Spain.

Senator Chandler contended that the possession of the islands was a military necessity. He dwelt upon the fact that Hawaii afforded practically the only stopping place between our shores and the Philippine islands. He mentioned the fact that the United States had a fleet of ships in the harbor of Honolulu, and said that, in view of the existing war, we should be shown any favoritism whatever, the little republic would be held to a strict accountability by our government.

He called attention to the Geneva award, and said that, under its terms, we would be forced to allow the Hawaiian islands to be taken by the United States, and that, under its terms, we would be forced to allow the Hawaiian islands to be taken by the United States.

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Lodge had intended to defend his action in offering the Hawaiian annexation resolution as an amendment to the pending bill, but refrained because, he said, a secret session would be demanded if that amendment were started. After commenting somewhat severely upon the arrogance of the minority which prevented action upon a question which the administration and a majority in both branches of congress desired to dispose of, he began a discussion of some of the questions arising out of the present war. Evidently believing this not a proper subject for public discussion, Mr. Turpie, Democrat, of Indiana, forced a secret legislative session.

In the open session that followed, Mr. Elkins discussed the general features of the pending bill, opposing the corporation tax, tax on bank deposits, and the issue of greenbacks, and strongly advocating the issue of bonds.

I. T. U. ELECTION.

Returns Indicate the Choice of Samuel B. Donnelly as President by a Big Majority.

NEW YORK, May 31.—Returns of the vote for the officers of the International Typographical Union were received at the headquarters of "Big 6" to-night. At midnight it was said that 140 chapters out of 186 of this city gave for president, Samuel B. Donnelly, of New York, union No. 5, 3,794 votes; Merritt B. Palmer, of Peoria union No. 2, 52; scattering, 82. For secretary-treasurer, James W. Lynch, of Chicago, 1,616; C. P. Connelly, of St. Louis, 712. It was also said that Donnelly carried Philadelphia by 130 majority, Chicago by 40, Pittsburgh by 35 and also Boston, Omaha and Kansas City.

The returns indicate the choice of Samuel B. Donnelly, of New York, president; John G. Derfingher, of New York, second vice president; James W. Lynch, of Chicago, fourth vice president; Charles A. Allen, of Boston, sixth vice president; J. W. Bramwood, of Denver, secretary-treasurer; George W. Harris, of Chicago, organizer and agent; C. A. Allen, of New York, delegate of allied craft to the national convention of labor. The contest for first vice president was close between Samuel L. Leflingwell, of Indianapolis, and James W. Lynch, of Syracuse.

HOW MUCH DID LEITER MAKE?

Estimates as to His Profits in the Wheat Deal Are Widely at Variance.

CHICAGO, May 31.—Leiter's famous wheat deal was formally closed to-day. The last moments were lively, and Joseph Leiter, to all appearances, was master of the situation. As it is emphasized by his command of the market, Leiter sent May wheat down from \$1.75 to \$1.25. This move was plainly for the purpose of evading the big receipts and to circumvent the "tailers," who wanted to "ring in" a lot of wheat on putting the price down. Leiter fooled them by putting the price down. Nevertheless, he had